

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Office Action dated 14 May 2007. Responsive to that Office Action, Claim 1 has now been amended for further prosecution with the other pending Claims. It is believed that with such amendment of the Claim, there is a further clarification of its recitations.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 3-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Liu, et al. reference in view of the Shu, et al. reference and the “Sun Blade” reference. In setting forth this rejection, the Examiner acknowledged that Liu, et al. fails to disclose a portable digital audio/video device comprising features such as an access slot, a retractable disk supporting plate, an operation panel, and a control circuit identifying the data format of the data stored in a compact disk. The Examiner, however, cited Shu, et al. for disclosing an AV processor having an operation button set on its front panel and “Sun Blade” for disclosing a computer system having an access slot and a retractable tray. The Examiner concluded that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated these features into the Liu, et al. device.

Also in the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu, et al. in view of Shu, et al. and “Sun Blade,” further in view of the Shing reference. In this regard, the Examiner

acknowledged that Liu, et al., Shu, et al., and “Sun Blade” fail to disclose a portable digital audio/video device having among its features a plurality of audio/video processing circuits, a multiplexor, or means for converting audio/video data from the multiplexor into analog audio/video signals. The Examiner cited Shing for disclosing these features, however, and concluded that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated them in a device taught by the other references.

As newly-amended independent Claim 1 now more clearly recites, Applicant’s portable digital audio/video device is one which plugs directly into “an access slot formed on a computer device.” The portable digital audio/video device includes among its combination of features “a casing configured for slidable insert in the access slot of the computer device,” as well as a “control circuit” which identifies and “selectively activat[es]” the appropriate audio/video data processing for various formats of data stored in a given disk. The portable digital audio/video device also includes among its combination of features suitable means by which “the audio/video signal” generated by the portable digital audio/video device is transmitted “to the computer device in digital form,” so that “direct audio/video reproduction” may occur “at the computer device without further processing thereat,” as newly-amended independent Claim 1 also now more clearly recites.

The full combination of these and other features now more clearly recited by Applicant's pending Claims is nowhere disclosed by the cited references. Note in this regard that the portable CD player and burner prescribed by the primarily-cited Liu, et al. reference is an external device which is connectable to various devices including a personal computer, a TV, and a speaker. Such device is packaged in a housing 10 and connected to the various other devices via a separate output/input unit 90 which serves as a connection adapter. Consequently, the Liu, et al. CD player and burner is hardly a device "plugged into an access slot formed on a computer device," or one that is formed with "a casing configured for slidable insert in the access slot of the computer device," as Claim 1 now more clearly recites.

What is more, the Liu, et al. CD player and burner is one which necessarily relies upon the data processing capabilities of the personal computer that it connects to, in playing back or reading data on that personal computer. The reference specifically explains that "[w]hen the user wants to read the data in the CD," the CD is placed in the player/burner, and "the data in the CD is output to the computer through the computer signal controller 83," (column 4; lines 49 and 54-55). The reference specifies, "[t]hen the signals are converted to acceptable codes by the computer system (such as digital signals) taking advantage of the CPU, the display card and other elements provided in the computer system itself," (column 4; lines 58-61; *emphasis added*). Liu, et al. could not teach more clearly

away from a portable digital audio/video device in which suitable measures are provided for “transmitting... to the computer device in digital form for direct audio/video reproduction at the computer device,” and “without further data processing thereat,” as Claim 1 now more clearly recites.

Give such contrary teachings of the Liu, et al. reference, the disclosures of the secondarily-cited Shu, et al., “Sun Blade,” and Shing references are found to be quite ineffectual to the present patentability analysis. Those secondary references were cited for teaching certain isolated features whose incidental disclosures fail to remedy the deficiencies of the primarily-cited Liu, et al. reference.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that the cited Liu, et al., Shu, et al., “Sun Blade,” and Shing references, even when considered together, fail to disclose the unique combination of elements now more clearly recited by the pending Claims for the purposes and objectives disclosed in the subject Application.

It is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed fully in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

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Response to Office Action dated 14 April 2007

No fees are believed to be due with this Amendment. If there are any charges associated with this filing, the Honorable Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account #18-2011 for such charges.

Respectfully submitted,

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